UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1996/49
27 November 1995

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-second session
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 1995/60 of 7 March 1995, entitled "Ways and means of overcoming obstacles to the establishment of a democratic society and requirements for the maintenance of democracy", the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to circulate to the Commission any materials prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 49/30 of 7 December 1994 entitled "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts by Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies". The Commission recommended that the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities discuss at its next session ways and means of overcoming obstacles to the consolidation of democratic societies, taking into account the relation between democracy, development and human rights. Finally, the Commission decided to examine, taking into account the outcome of the discussion to be held at the Sub-Commission, as well as the documentation to be submitted by the Secretary-General, ways and means of overcoming obstacles to the consolidation of democratic societies, taking into account the relation between democracy, development and human rights, at its fifty-second session.

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 49/30, requested the Secretary-General to study the ways and mechanisms in which the United Nations system could support the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies, and to submit a comprehensive report thereon to the Assembly at its fiftieth session.

3. In response to the request contained in Commission resolution 1995/60, the report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/30 (A/50/332) will be made available to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session.

4. At its forty-seventh session, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities adopted decision 1995/116 of 24 August 1995, entitled "Democratic society". In this decision, the Sub-Commission, having taken into consideration the oral statement on the subject made by Mr. Osman El-Hajjé, 1/ decided to request Mr. El-Hajjé to prepare, without financial implications, a working paper on democracy and the establishment of a democratic society, to be submitted to the Sub-Commission at its forty-eighth session.

5. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to the fact that certain aspects of the question of the relation between democracy, development and human rights have been discussed by the Sub-Commission in the context of its consideration of agenda items 7 and 8 entitled, respectively, "The new international economic order and the promotion of human rights: (a) The role and equal participation of women in development" and "The realization of economic, social and cultural rights". 2/ In this connection, the Sub-Commission had before it, inter alia, the following documents:

> Preliminary set of basic policy guidelines on structural adjustment programmes and economic, social and cultural rights. Report of the Secretary-General prepared in pursuance of Sub-Commission resolution 1994/37 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/10);
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> The relationship between the enjoyment of human rights, in particular international labour and trade union rights, and the working methods and activities of transnational corporations. Background document prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/11);
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> Preliminary report on the relationship between the enjoyment of human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights, and income distribution, prepared by Mr. José Bengoa, in conformity with resolution 1994/40 of the Sub-Commission and decision 1995/105 of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/14).

Notes

1/ See E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/SR.19, paras. 30-37. The statement was subsequently circulated as document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/49. See also the report of the Sub-Commission on its forty-seventh session (E/CN.4/1996/2 - E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/51), paras. 92-96.

2/ See the report of the Sub-Commission, op. cit., chapters VIII and IX.